Memoranda which lead to unnecessary work and repeated visits to the office of Textile Commissioner has been removed;

- Some powers of Textile Commissioner to issue directions have been retained so that he may discharge his responsibility in respect of hank yarn obligation order, reverse twist order, Olive green shade and marking on textiles. It has also been made clear that the Textile Commissioner can now insist on markings on the imported textile articles also.
- Keeping in view the inadequacy of regulatory machinery available with the Textile Commissioner, powers of the Textile Commissioner to control production and supply have been diluted by and large. With a view to protecting the industrial units from possible harassment by inspectors, it has been provided that powers of search and seizure would be exercised by an officer not below the rank of Assistant Director.

Though not directly affecting production of textiles, the new order, by providing a more friendly environment, should provide encouragement to textile manufacturers.

Development of textile industry in Rajasthan

1156: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by Government in Rajasthan on the development of textile industry during the last five years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote the garments sector in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of the textile and jute industries in the country including Rajasthan w.e.f. April 1, 1999 for a period of five years. The scheme provides for reimbursement of five per cent interest charged by the financial institutions/banks for technology upgradation projects in conformity with the Scheme. As on 31st January, 2002, in the State of Rajasthan, a total of 169 applications with investment

proposals of Rs. 1272 crores were received, 117 applications with a total loan amount of Rs. 393 crores were sanctioned and Rs. 335 crores has been disbursed against 99 applications.

Besides, the amount spent by Government, during last five years, in Rajasthan includes Rs. 117 lakhs for upgradation of Powerloom Service Centres, Rs. 27 lakhs for Computer Aided Design Centre and Rs. 223 lakhs for setting up/upgradation of textile testing laboratories. Government has also released Rs. 187 lakhs for Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) located in Rajasthan, Rs. 544 lakhs for wool development projects and Rs. 790 lakhs for development of handloom sector in Rajasthan.

(b) Government has taken several steps to promote the garments sector in Rajasthan. These include:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI Sector. It has also announced the dereservation of knitted segment in the Budget 2002-03.

(ii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

(iii) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focussed steps for boosting production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

(iv) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional customs duty.

Market access for Textiles in the US

1157. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sought a greater market access for our textile products in the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the US Government thereto; and